



TALES OF SAI BABA

THE SAINT OF SHIRDI

Vol 601 | Rs 35

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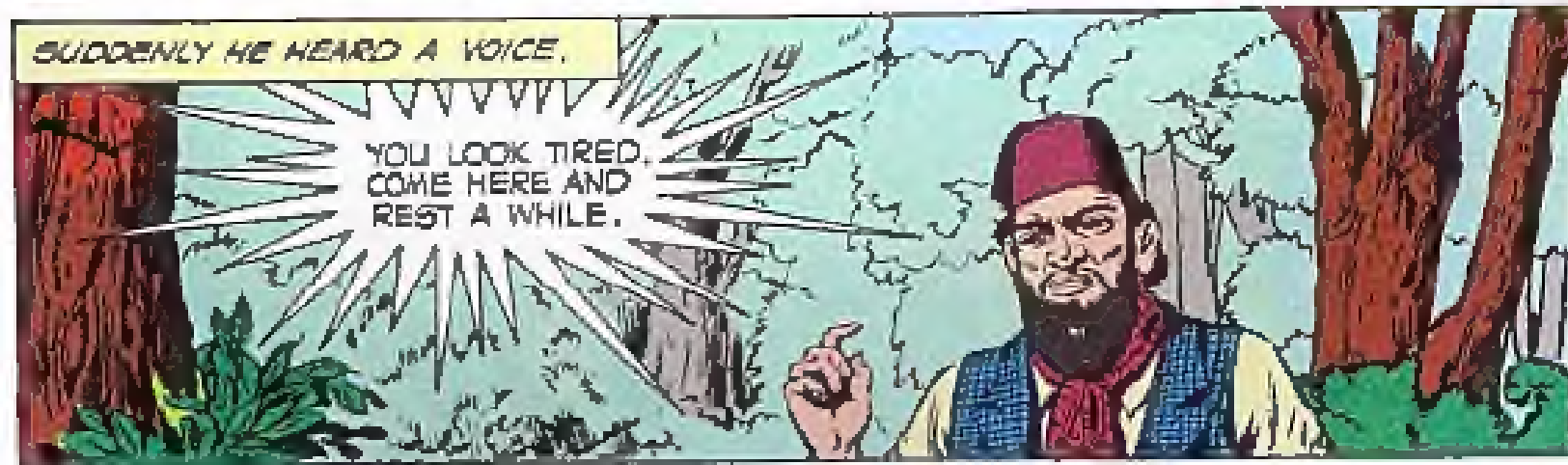
BABA COMES TO SHIRDI



CHANDBHAI, THE HEADMAN OF A VILLAGE CALLED CHOORKHEDE, *
ONCE LOST HIS HORSE AND WAS LOOKING FOR IT.

SUDDENLY HE HEARD A VOICE.

YOU LOOK TIRED.
COME HERE AND
REST A WHILE.



HE TURNED ROUND IN SURPRISE.

WHAT ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR IN
THIS JUNGLE,
CHANDBHAI?

WHO IS THIS YOUNG
FAKIR? HOW DOES
HE KNOW MY
NAME?





THE CHILLUM* WAS READY BUT THERE WAS NO FIRE TO LIGHT IT WITH. SAI BABA THRUST A PAIR OF TONGS INTO THE GROUND...



... AND BROUGHT OUT A BURNING COAL. CHANDBHAI WAS WONDERSTRUCK!



AH! I WAS RIGHT. THIS IS NO ORDINARY PERSON. HOW FORTUNATE I AM TO HAVE MET HIM!

BABA, WON'T YOU COME HOME WITH ME AND BE MY GUEST FOR A FEW DAYS?



THANK YOU. I WILL COME TOMORROW.

THE FAKIR KEPT HIS WORD AND WENT TO CHANDBHAI'S HOUSE THE NEXT DAY.



YOUR FAMILY IS IN A VERY HAPPY MOOD. IS THERE A SPECIAL REASON, CHANDBHAI?

YES, SABA, MY NICE'S NEPHEW IS GETTING MARRIED.

THE BRIDE IS FROM SHIRDI
AND WE WILL ALL BE GOING
THERE IN A FEW DAYS. WILL
YOU COME WITH US?

YES,
I WOULD
LIKE TO.



AND A FEW DAYS LATER, HE WENT TO SHIRDI
ALONG WITH THE MARRIAGE PARTY.



AT SHIRDI, THEY CAMPED IN A FIELD NEXT TO KHANDOSA'S TEMPLE.



AFTER THE WEDDING, THE FAKIR STAYED ON AT SHIRDI. AT FIRST, HE LIVED UNDER A
NEEM TREE AND BEGGED FOR FOOD WHENEVER HE NEEDED IT.



THEN HE WENT TO KHANDOBA'S TEMPLE, INTENDING TO LIVE THERE. BUT MAHALSAPATHI, THE TEMPLE PRIEST, MET HIM AT THE ENTRANCE.

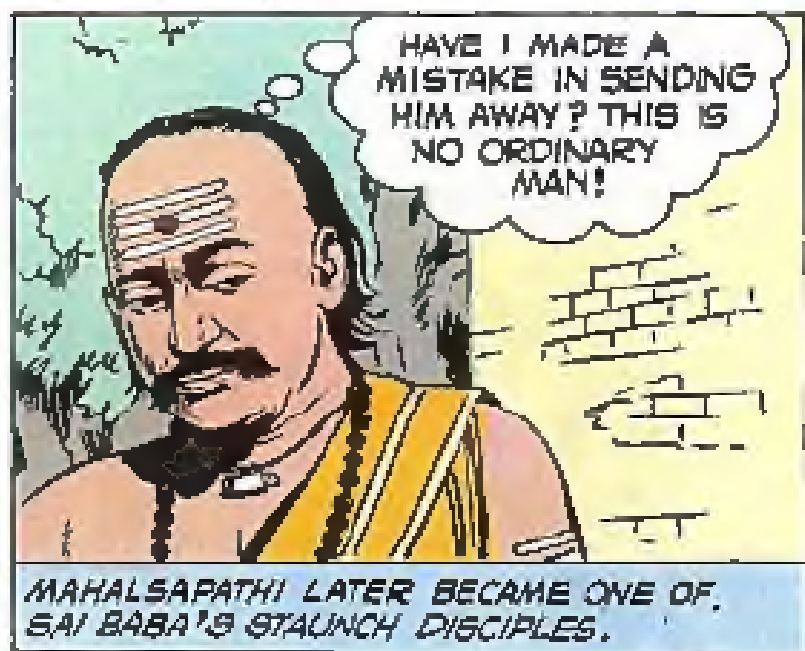


WERE YOU LOOKING FOR THE MOSQUE? YOU'VE MISSED IT. IT'S JUST ROUND THE CORNER.

SO BE IT. I'LL GO THERE.



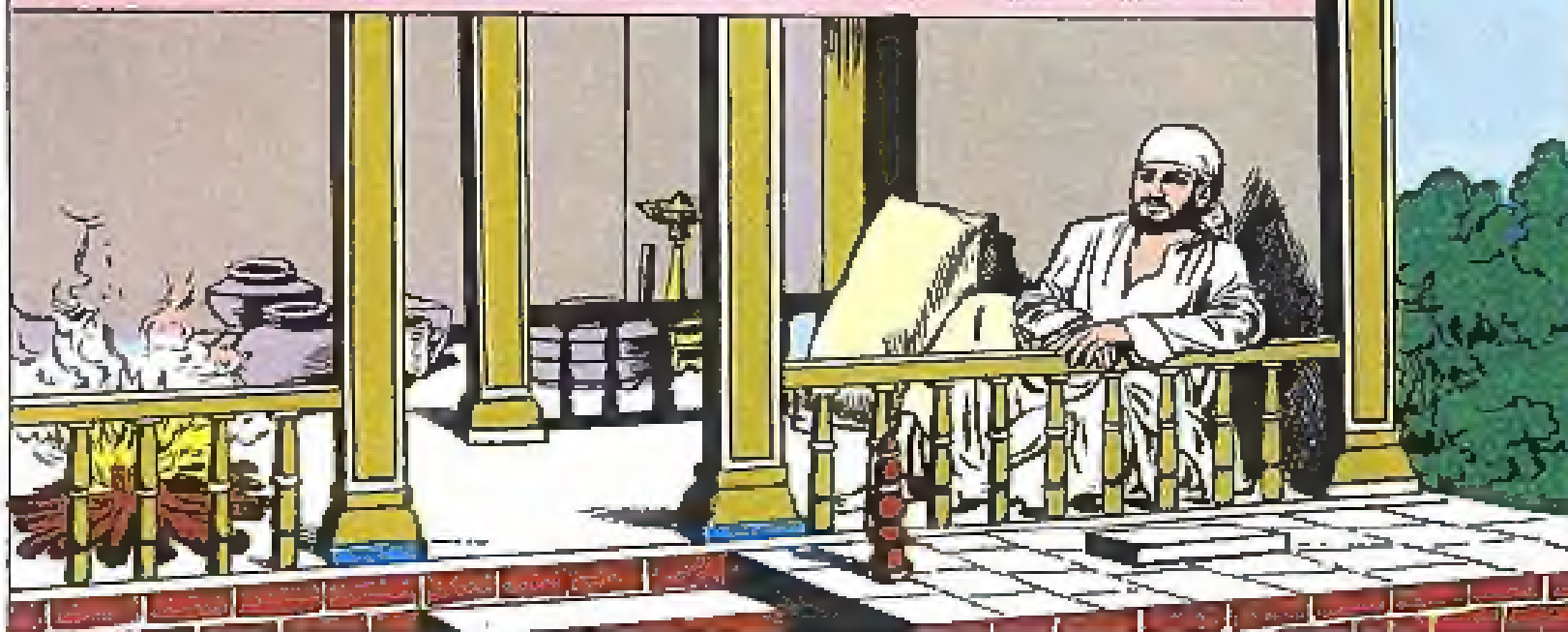
HOW COULD THAT FAKIR MAKE THE MISTAKE OF COMING HERE? BUT THE WAY HE LOOKED I FELT HE COULD SEE STRAIGHT THROUGH ME!



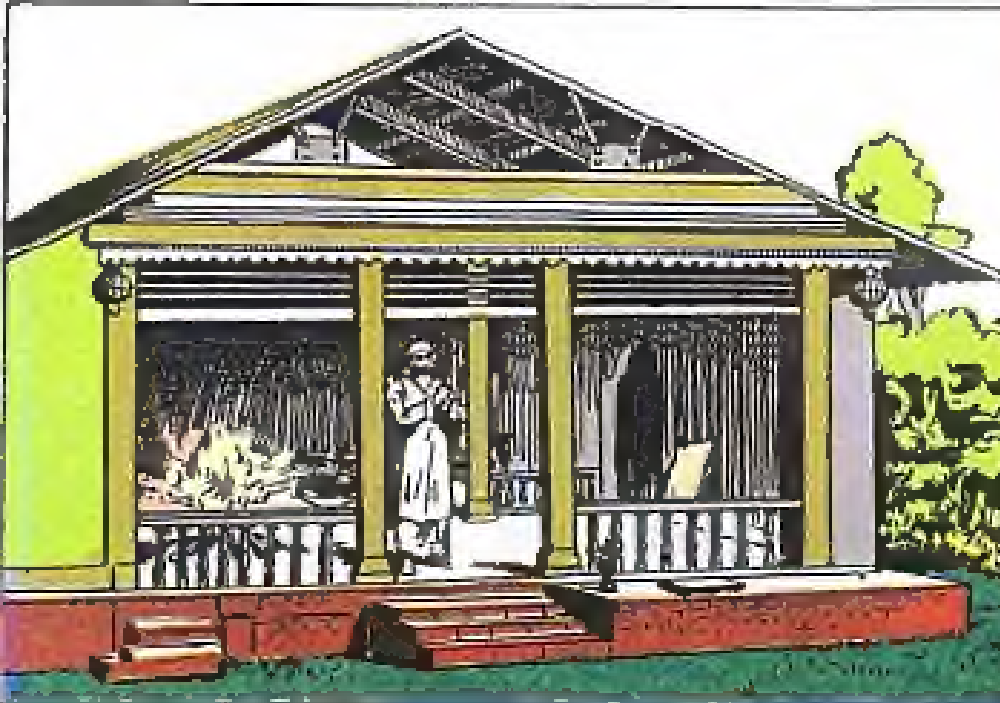
HAVE I MADE A MISTAKE IN SENDING HIM AWAY? THIS IS NO ORDINARY MAN!

MAHALSAPATHI LATER BECAME ONE OF SAI BABA'S STAUNCH DISCIPLES.

MEANWHILE, SAI BABA HAD FOUND THE LITTLE MUD-WALLED MOSQUE.



BABA AND THE OIL VENDORS



SAI BABA MADE THE MOSQUE HIS HOME. THERE HE KEPT A DHUNI * BURNING DAY AND NIGHT. THE MOSQUE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS DWARKAMAI.

HE SHARED THE FOOD WHICH HE HAD COLLECTED BY BEGGING, WITH POOR PEOPLE.



BABA, GIVE ME SOME FOOD; MY CHILDREN ARE STARVING.

HERE! TAKE WHAT YOU WANT.

IT WAS ALSO HIS HABIT TO SHARE WHAT WAS LEFT OVER WITH STRAY CATS, DOGS AND BIRDS.



BABA USED TO GO ROUND THE MARKET PLACE.

PLEASE GIVE ME SOME OIL.



AFTER EACH MERCHANT HAD RELUCTANTLY GIVEN HIM A LITTLE OIL...

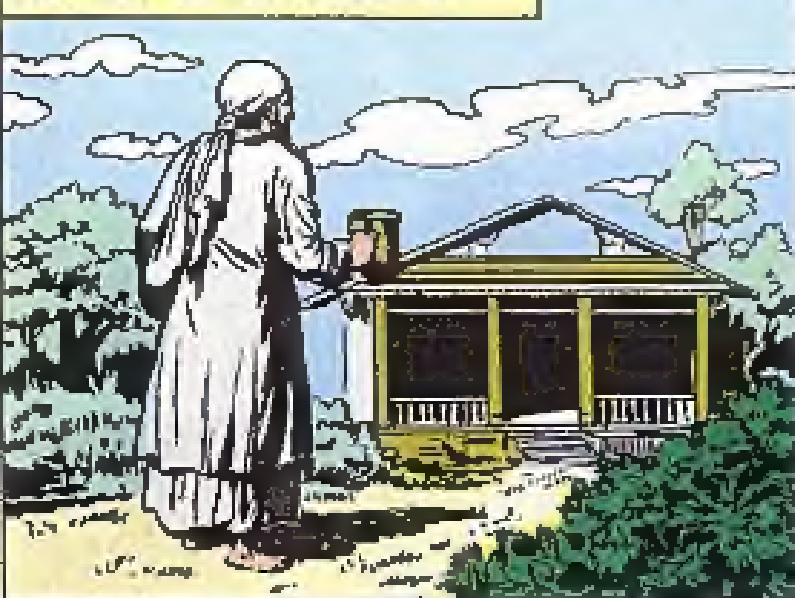
... HE WOULD MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE,

PLEASE, LET
ME HAVE A
LITTLE OIL!

OH! IT'S THE FAKIR
AGAIN. HERE TAKE SOME
OIL AND GO!



AFTER COLLECTING THE OIL, BABA WOULD
RETURN TO HIS MOSQUE...



... AND LIGHT TINY LAMPS AT NIGHT.



ONE DAY—

HERE COMES
THE FAKIR
AGAIN!





POOR BABA! THAT DAY NOBODY GAVE HIM ANY OIL.



SILENTLY, SAI BABA WENT AWAY, THE MERCHANTS BECAME A LITTLE ANXIOUS.



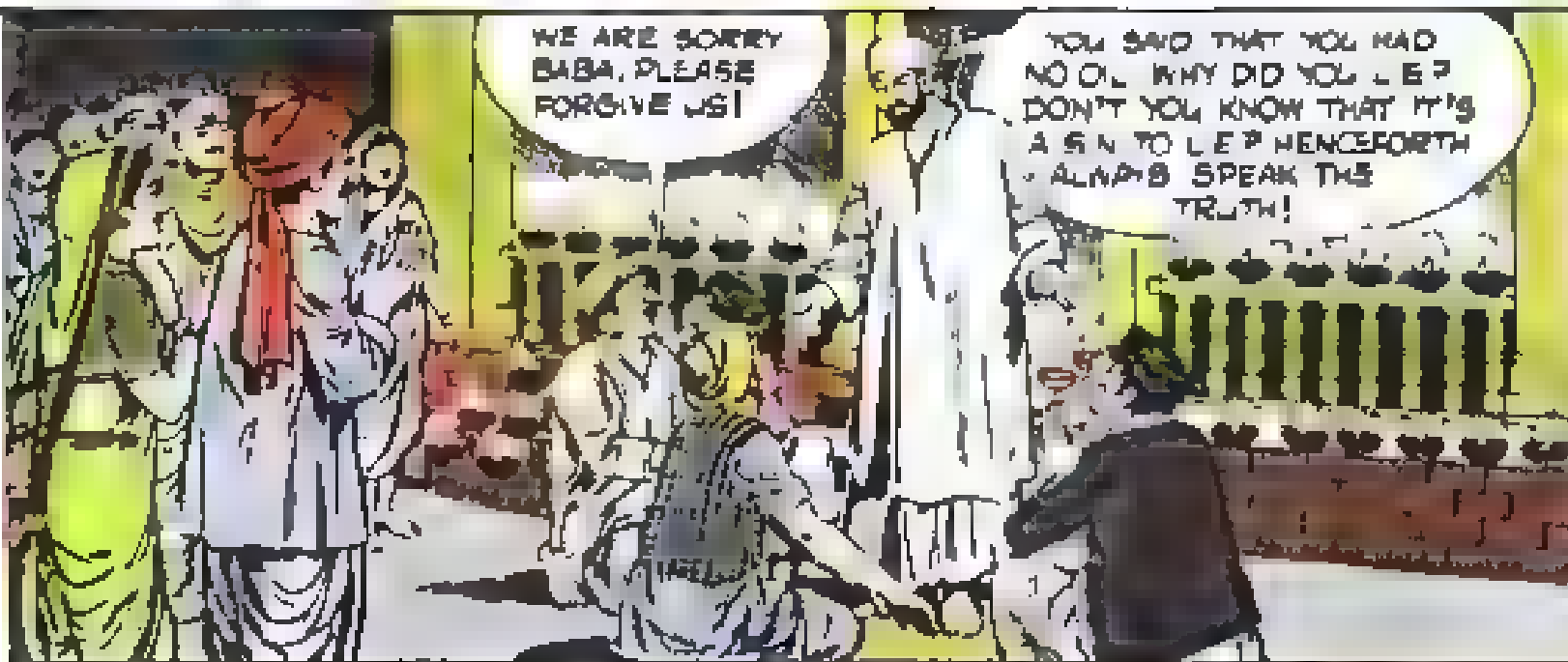
AT THE MOSQUE —



BABA WAS SMILING GENTLY AS...



...ONE BY ONE, HE LIT THE LAMPS!

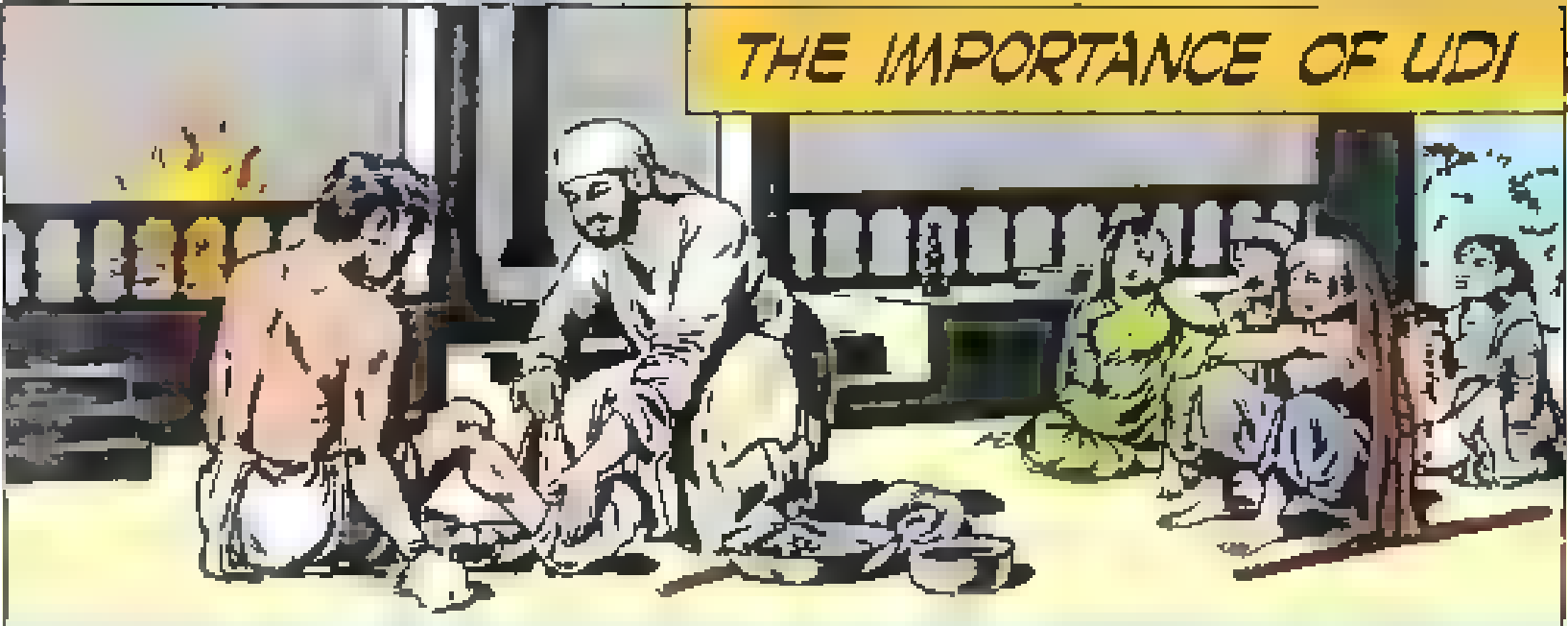


THEN BABA SPOKE TO THEM KINDLY.

REMEMBER THAT ALL OF US ARE CHILDREN OF THE SAME GOD, OUR CREATOR. IF YOU HELP THE POOR AND NEEDY, THEN GOD WILL SURELY BLESS YOU. SO, ALWAYS BE KIND TO OTHERS.



THE IMPORTANCE OF UDI



SLOWLY THE PEOPLE OF SHIRDI BEGAN TO RESPECT SAI BABA. WHEN SICK PEOPLE CAME TO HIM FOR HELP, HE CURED THEM WITH MEDICINES WHICH HE PREPARED FROM HERBS. SAI BABA TREATED EVERYONE ALIKE. HE MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR. HE KNEW NO CASTE OR CREED. HE EVEN SERVED LEPERS

AS THE YEARS WENT BY, THE CROWDS INCREASED. SAI BABA THEN STOPPED GIVING HERBAL MEDICINES. INSTEAD HE GAVE 'UDI', THE SACRED ASH, TO EVERYONE. ONE NIGHT, SHAMA, A DEVOTEE OF BABA, CAME TO HIM WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER.



BABA MY SISTER-IN-LAW IS VERY ILL SHE IS SUFFERING FROM THE PLAGUE. PLEASE SAVE HER!

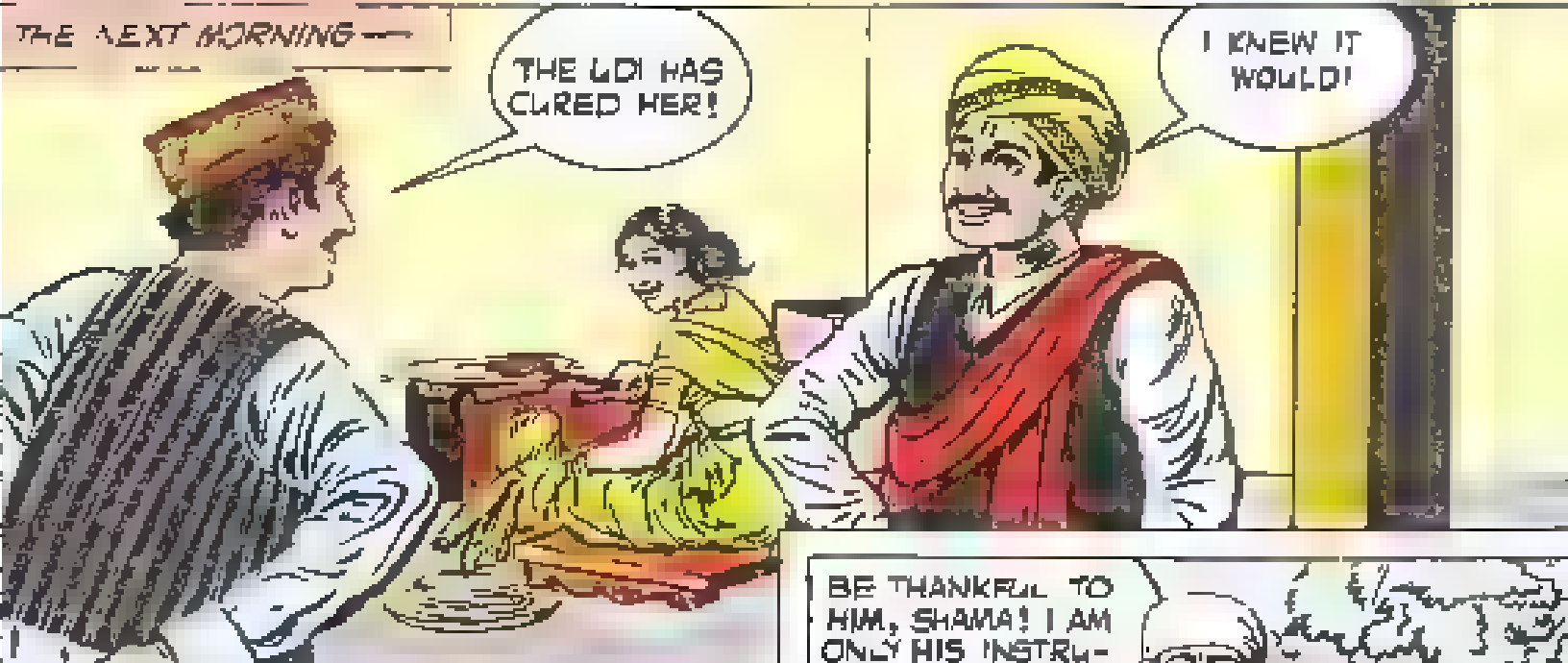
SHAMA, WHY ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS? BE CALM. SEND HER THIS UDI. SHE WILL BE WELL IN THE MORNING. THEN YOU CAN GO AND SEE HER.

SHAMA'S BROTHER WENT HOME WITH THE UDI.



DRINK THIS. IT IS SAI BABA'S UDI, WHICH I HAVE MIXED WITH WATER. I KNOW IT WILL HELP YOU.

THE NEXT MORNING —



SHAMA RAN BACK TO THE MOSQUE, HIS HEART OVERFLOWING WITH GRATITUDE



AND THIS SACRED ASH CARRIES A GREAT MESSAGE, SHAMA! GOD IS ETERNAL AND THE ONLY REALITY. ALL ELSE THAT YOU SEE IN THIS UNIVERSE PERISHES. OUR BODIES WILL ONE DAY TURN INTO ASH. TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS.



BE THANKFUL TO HIM, SHAMA! I AM ONLY HIS INSTRUMENT. HE IS THE SOLE DOER AND INSPIRER!



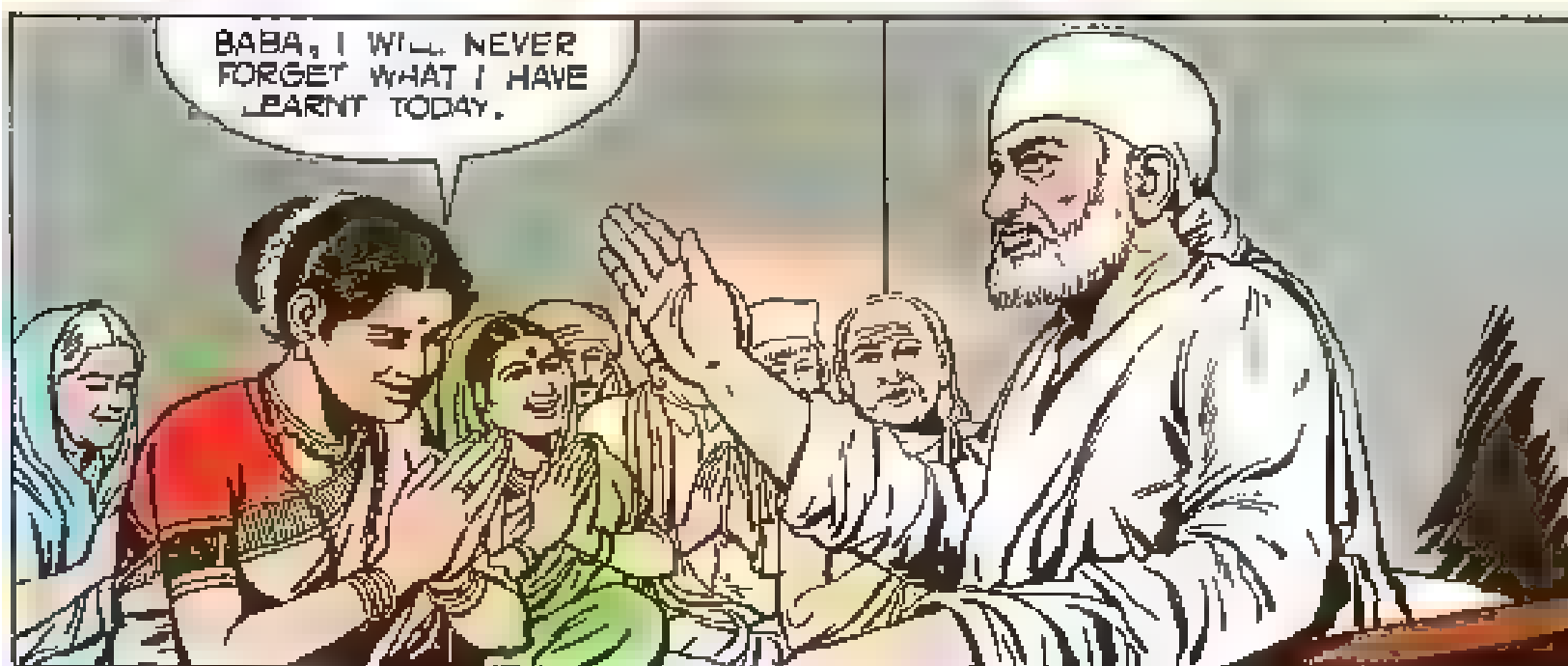
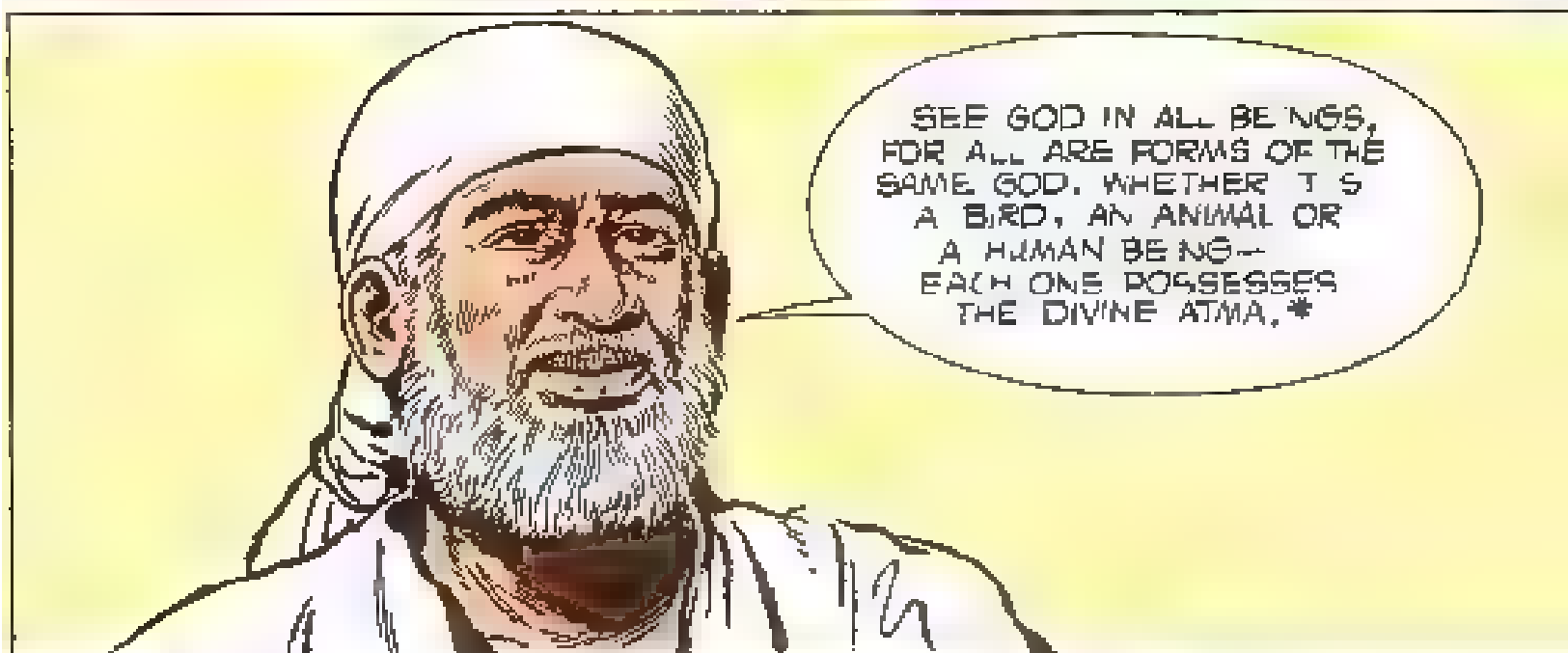
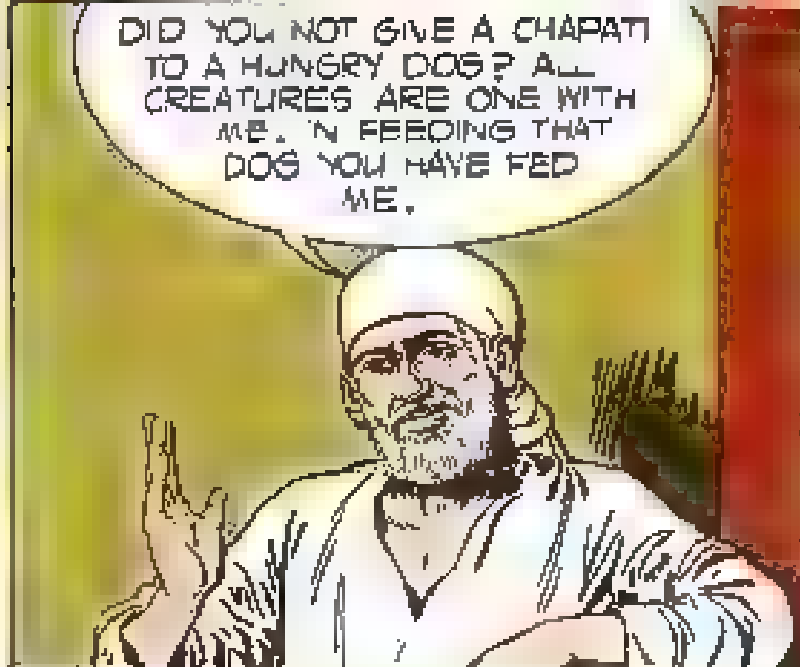
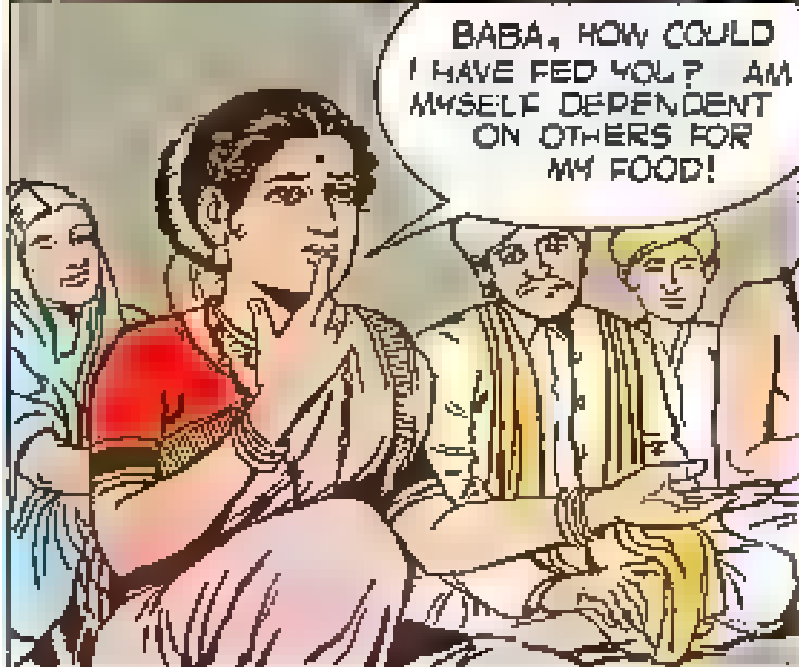
THE HUNGRY DOG

THAT POOR
DOG LOOKS
HUNGRY.

ONCE, MRS TARKHAD, A LADY FROM BOMBAY,
HAD COME TO SHARD, FOR A FEW DAYS

I WILL
GIVE IT A
CHAPATI

OTHER, YOU GAVE
ME A HEARTY MEAL
TODAY. ALWAYS ACT
THIS. FIRST GIVE FOOD
TO THE HUNGRY AND
THEN FEED
YOURSELF!

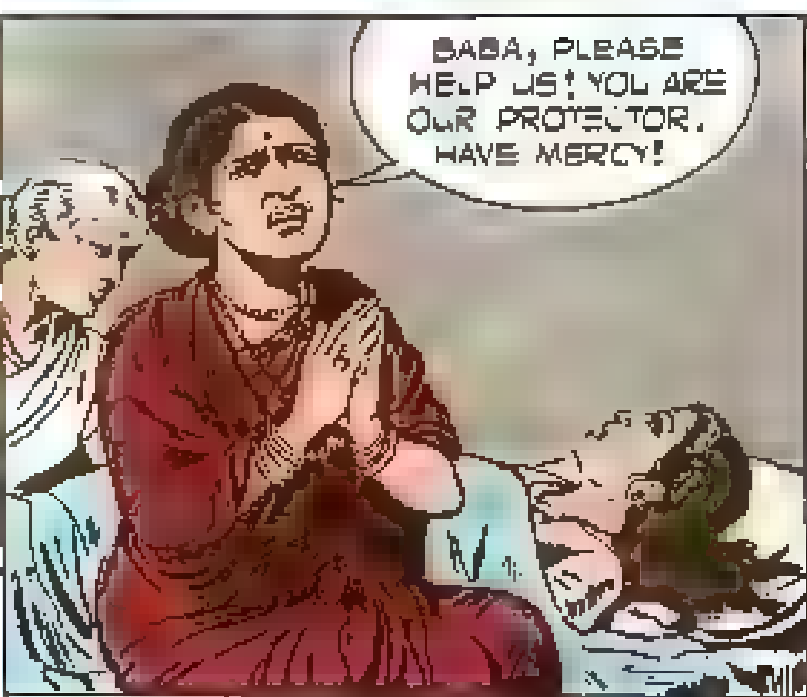


THE CARE OF DEVOTEES



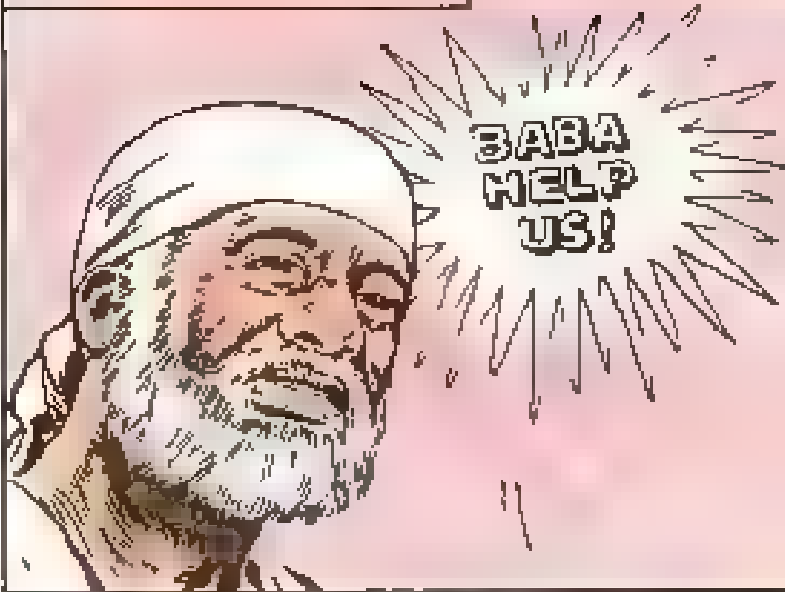
BABA!
HELP US! MY
DAUGHTER'S
LIFE IS IN
DANGER!

NANA CHANDORKAR AND HIS WIFE WERE VERY WORRIED. THEIR DAUGHTER, WHO WAS GOING TO HAVE A CHILD, WAS SERIOUSLY ILL.



BABA, PLEASE
HELP US! YOU ARE
OUR PROTECTOR.
HAVE MERCY!

FAR AWAY AT SHIRDI, SA. BABA HEARD THE R CRY FOR HELP.



BABA
HELP
US!

AT THAT MOMENT, BAPUGIR BUVA, A DEVOTEE, WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE SHIRDI FOR HIS NATIVE VILLAGE IN KHANDESH.



BAPUGIR, DO ME A
FAVOUR. GIVE TH S
SACRED ASH TO NANA,
WHO LIVES AT
JAMNER.

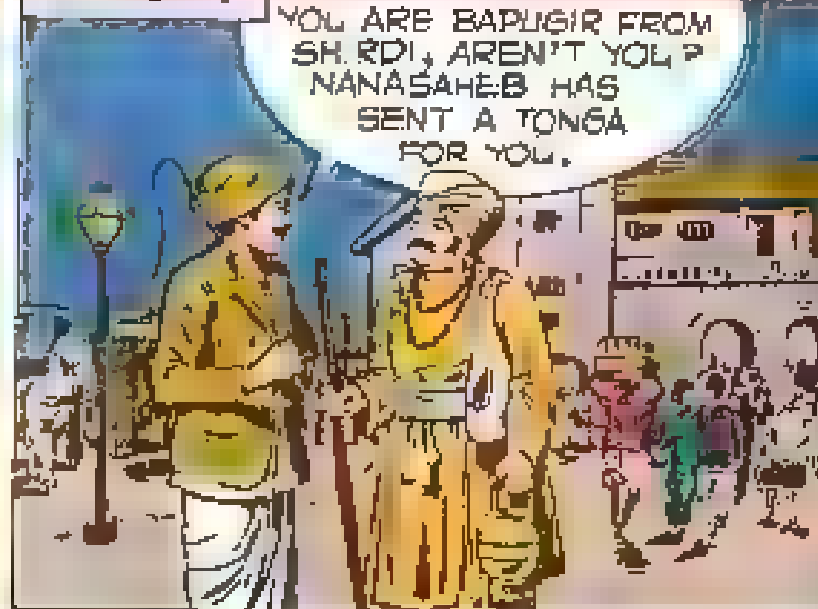
BUT, BABA, I HAVE
ONLY TWO RUPEES,
CAN BUY A TICKET
UPTO JALGAON, BUT
WHO WILL TAKE
ME TO JAMNER FROM
THERE?

DON'T WORRY,
EVERYTH NG
WILL BE TAKEN
CARE OF!



BAPUGIR REACHED JALSAON SOON AFTER
MIDNIGHT.

YOU ARE BAPUGIR FROM
SH. RDI, AREN'T YOU?
NANASAHAB HAS
SENT A TONGA
FOR YOU.



BAPUGIR GOT INTO THE TONGA. THE
HORSE SPED LIKE THE WIND.



BY DAWN, THEY WERE AT
NANA'S HOUSE IN JANNER.



BABA HAS SENT
THIS SACRED ASH
FOR YOU.



THANK GOD!
I AM NO LONGER
AFRAID!



NANA APPLIED THE ASH TO
HIS DAUGHTER'S FOREHEAD.

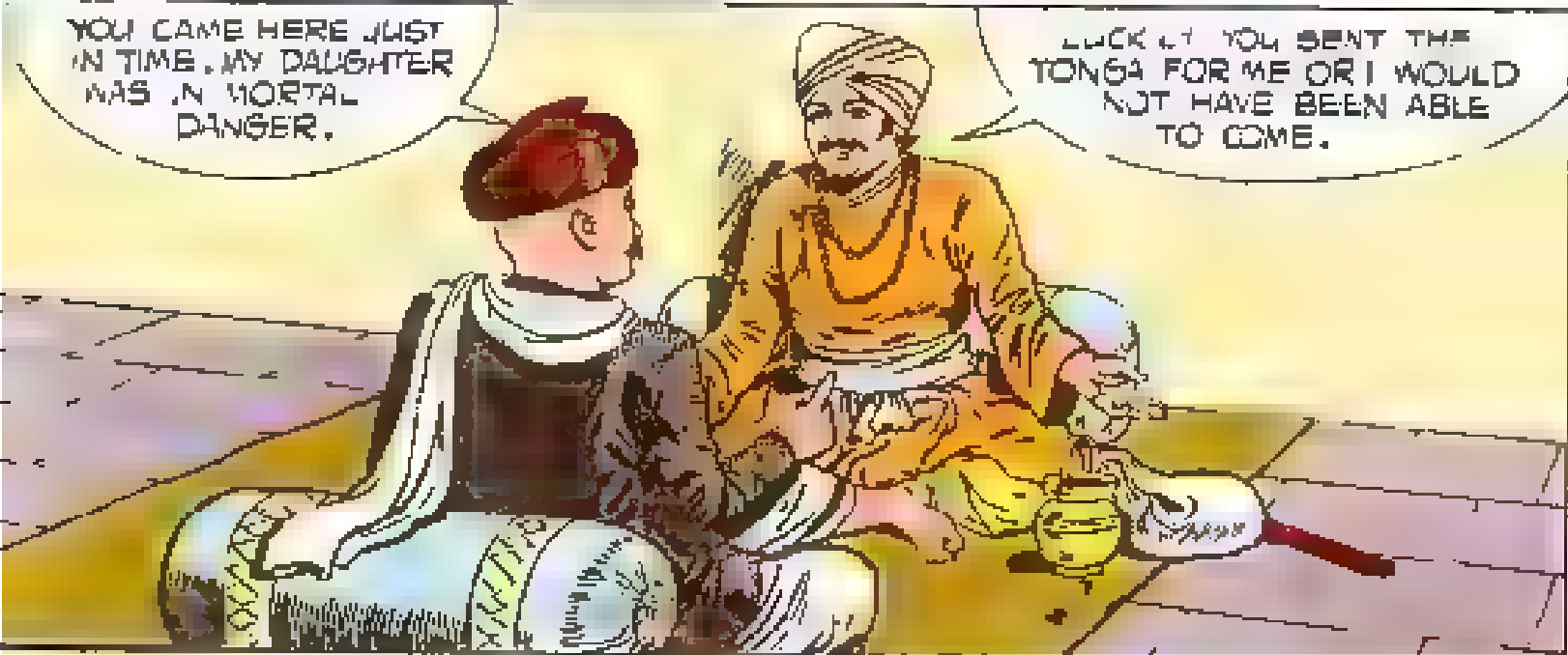


SOON AFTER, HER CHILD WAS BORN
SAFELY



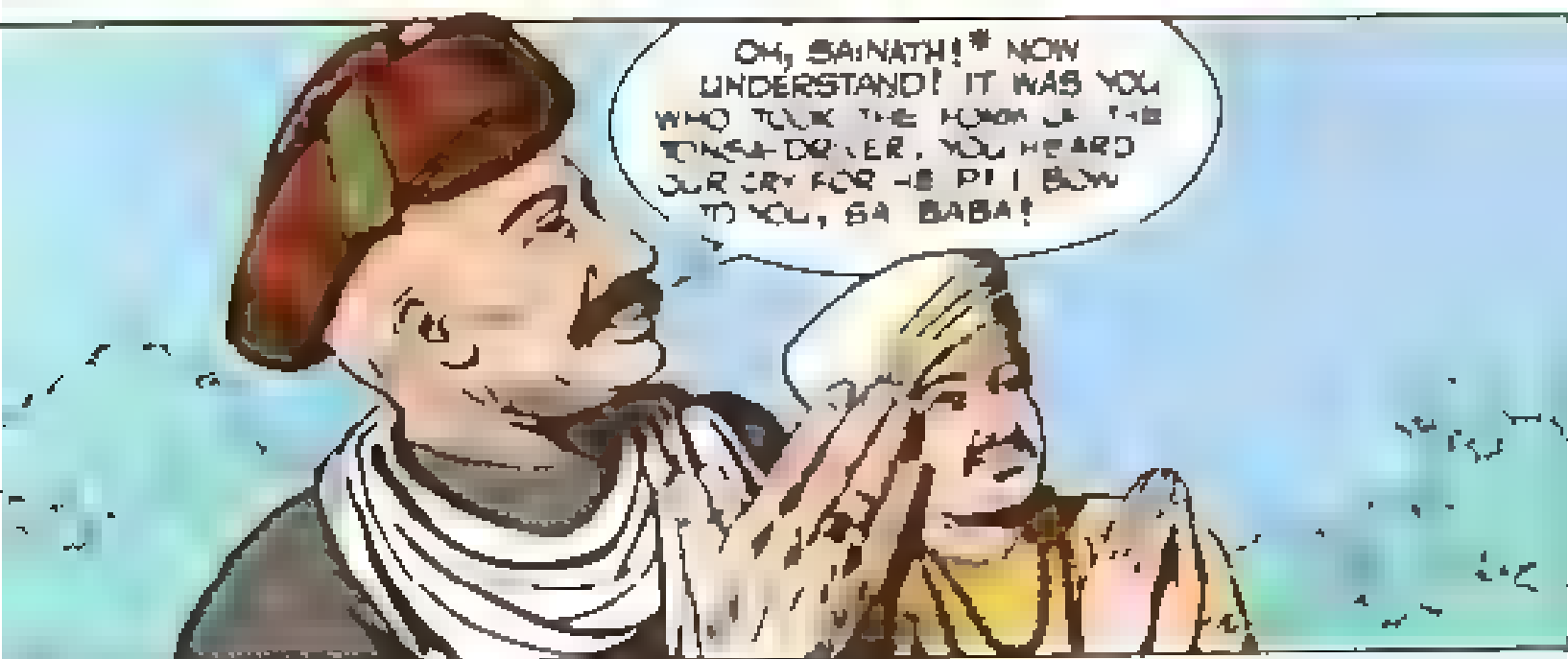
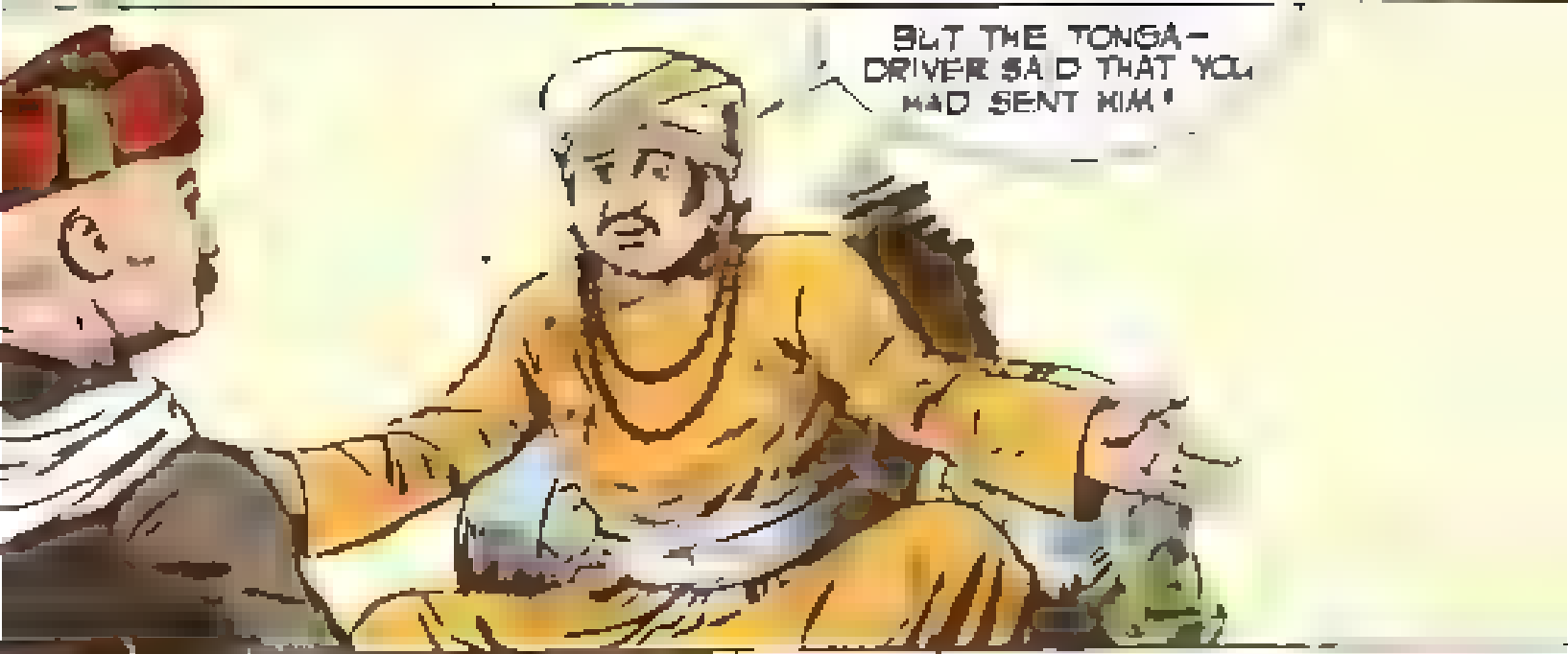
YOU CAME HERE JUST
IN TIME. MY DAUGHTER
WAS IN MORTAL
DANGER.

LUCKY YOU SENT THE
TONGA FOR ME OR I WOULD
NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO COME.



DON'T UNDERSTAND,
WHAT TONGA? I DIDN'T
SEND ANY TONGA.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
YOU WERE COMING!









THE PROTECTIVE HAND



TWO DAYS AGO, AS HE SAT THE HOUSE, HE WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN HIS VILLAGE. HE HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE VILLAGE, BUT AS HE WAS IN THE VILLAGE, HE DID NOT KNOW.

TWO DAYS LATER, A LETTER ARRIVED. A DEVOTEE READ IT OUT.



BABA, I SALUTE YOU. I AM A BLACKSMITH AND YOUR DEVOTEE THIS MORNING...

"...MY WIFE WAS WORKING AT THE BELLOWS..."



COME HERE FOR A VISIT

"MY WIFE GOT UP SUDDENLY AND OUR CHILD AND I WERE ON THE GROUND..."



"...AND FELL INTO THE FLAMES."

BABA!
PROTECT
MY CHILD!

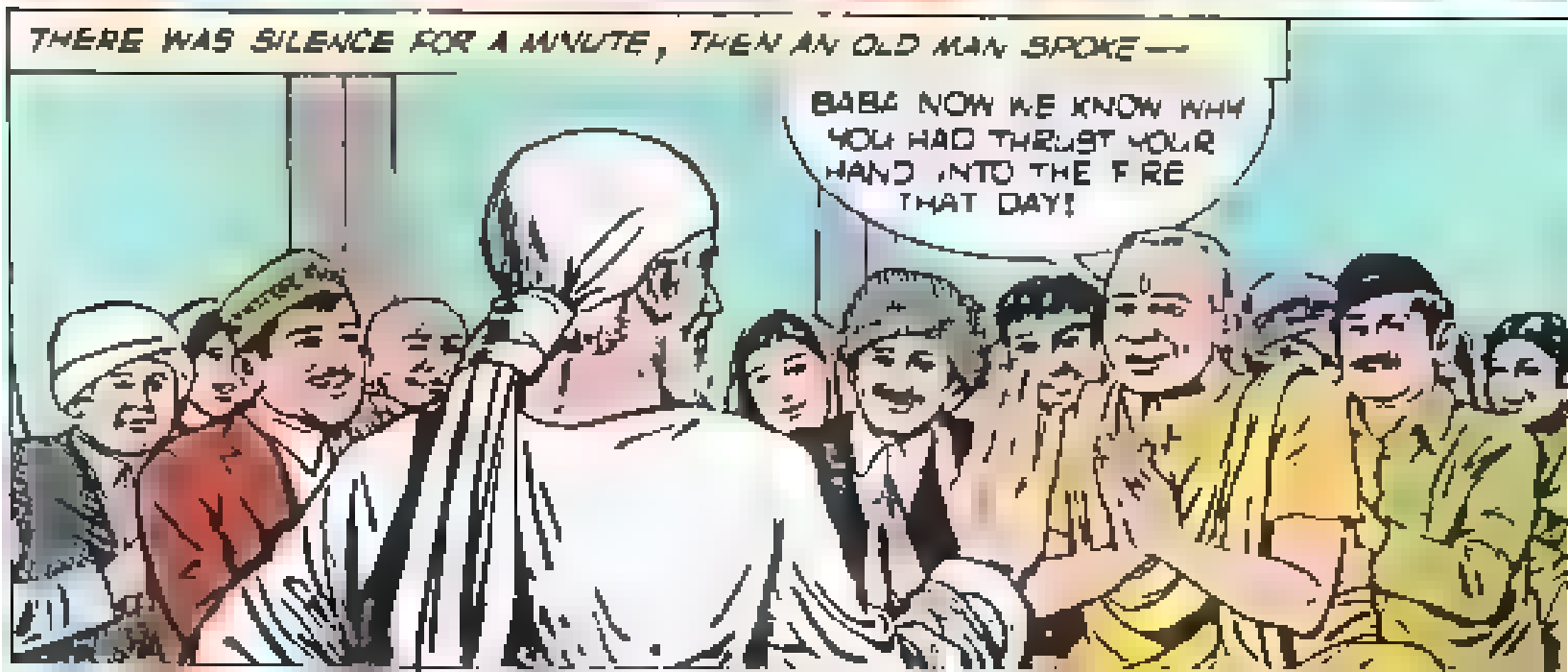


"WE PICKED UP THE CHILD AND FOUND
HIM UNHURT."

BY THE
GRACE
OF BABA
HE IS
SAVED.



BABA, WE KNOW
YOU PROTECTED
OUR CHILD. WE
SALUTE YOU.



THERE WAS SILENCE FOR A MINUTE, THEN AN OLD MAN SPOKE —

BABA NOW WE KNOW WHY
YOU HAD THRUST YOUR
HAND INTO THE FIRE
THAT DAY!

THE OFFERING

BABA, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS HUMBLE OFFERING.

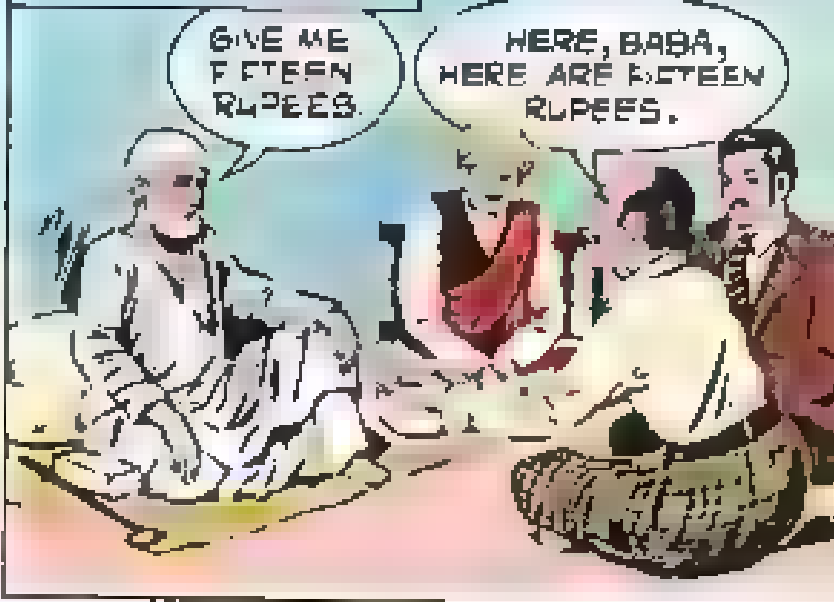


WHEN PEOPLE OFFERED FRUIT TO SA BABA...

...HE IMMEDIATELY DISTRIBUTED IT TO THE POOR



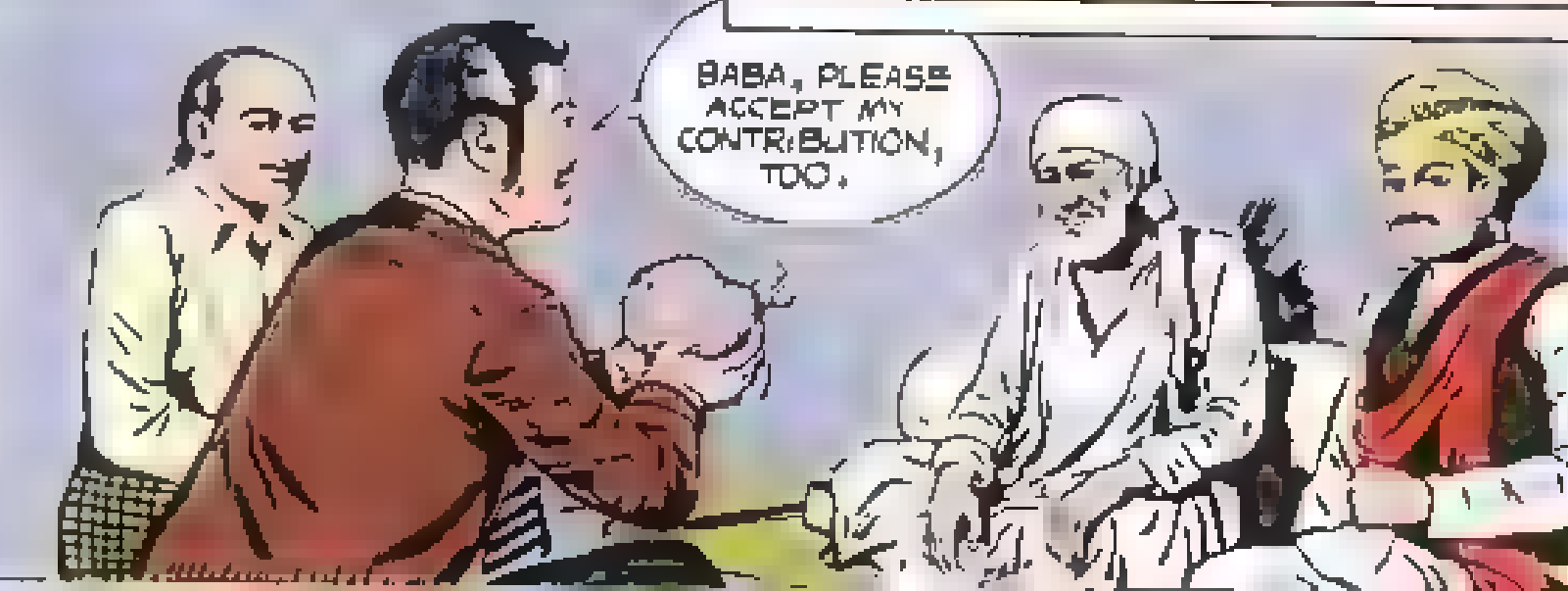
BUT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN BABA ASKED FOR MONEY AS AN OFFERING THERE WAS ALWAYS A GOOD REASON FOR DOING THIS. ONE DAY TWO GENTLEMEN FROM BOA CAME TO SEE BABA.



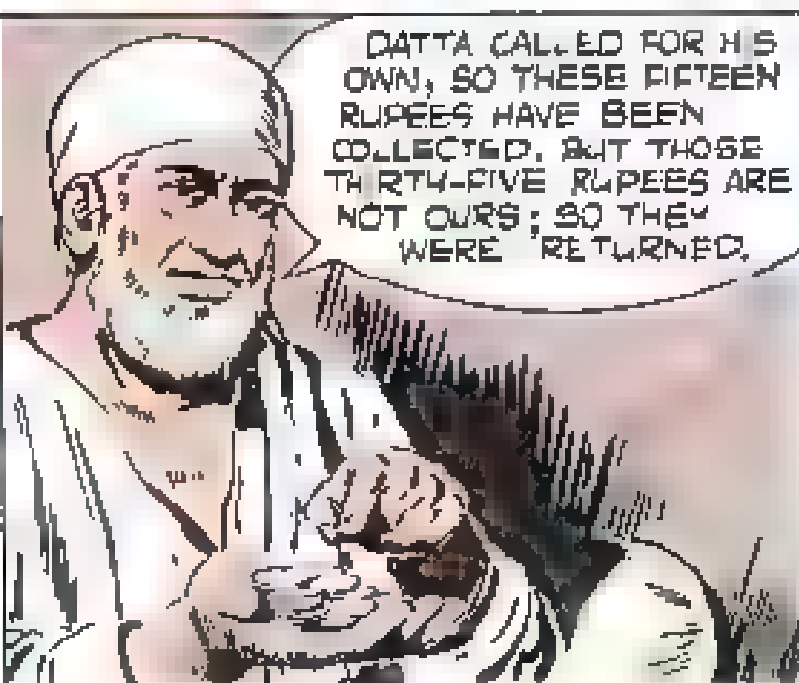
GIVE ME FIFTEEN RUPEES.

HERE, BABA, HERE ARE FIFTEEN RUPEES.

BABA, PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONTRIBUTION, TOO.



BABA ACCEPTED THE MONEY FROM THE SECOND MAN, COUNTED IT AND RETURNED IT.



LATER, THE TWO MEN HAD LUNCH AT SHAMA'S HOUSE.



RAM AND RAHIM

'DEAN DATS' MEANS COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE EYES, HAND AND HEART TO THE CURV



AS BABA SAW THAT HIS WORKS WERE KNOWN, HE ADDED THE BAL RED FIRE BURNING ALL DAY LONG AND GAVE IT THE NAME OF RAM AND OTHER HOLY DAYS. HERE THE MANDS RESPECTED HIM AS ONE OF THEM,

BUT HE DRESSED LIKE A MUSLIM MAN, AND HAD THE NAME OF ALLAN ALKINS ON HIS LIPS. HE RECITED DEEMAN VERSES AND TAUGHT THE ESSENCE OF THE QURAN SO THE MUSLIMS THOUGHT THAT HE WAS ONE OF THEM.

ALLAN RAKHESA VAISA RAHENA!
LET US BE CONTENT AND SUBMIT
OUR WILL TO ALLAN!



ONE DAY A SMALL CHILD OF AGE CAME TO HIM WITH SOME FLOWERS

BABA, THEY WORSHIP
GOD IN THE TEMPLES
WITH FLOWERS.



SEE AS THE CHILD'S FAITH
BABA'S HEART MELTED WITH LOVE.

YOU ARE MY GOD.
PLEASE BLESS
ME!

HOW STRANGE!
BABA NEVER LETS
ANYONE WOR-
SHIP HIM LIKE
THIS



AT THE SAME TIME, A FEW HINDU DEVOTEES BECAME BOLD AND STARTED WORSHIPPING HIM, THEIR HEARTS, TOO, WERE FILLED WITH PURE DEVOTION. SO BABA SUBMITTED QUIETLY.



BUT A MUSLIM DEVOTEE HAD WORSHIPPED



YA ALLAH!
WHAT NONSENSE
IS THIS? THIS IS
A MOSQUE NOT
A TEMPLE?

THIS DEVOTEE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR BABA, BUT HE COULD NOT TOLERATE THE HINDUS WORSHIPPING HIM.



BABA, YOU SHOULD NOT
LET THEM WORSHIP
YOU, IT IS
AGAINST OUR
FAITH!

DO NOT BE
DISTURBED BY WHAT
YOU SEE, ALL THAT IS
IS ALLAH!

THE ANSWER CAME ARRANGED BY THE LORD ONE DAY—



SHALL I STRIKE
HIM NOW?

JUST THEN, BABA TURNED
AND TOUCHED HIS LEFT
WRIST..



... AND UNDER BABA'S LOOK, THE DEVOTEE FELL TO THE GROUND IN A DAZE.



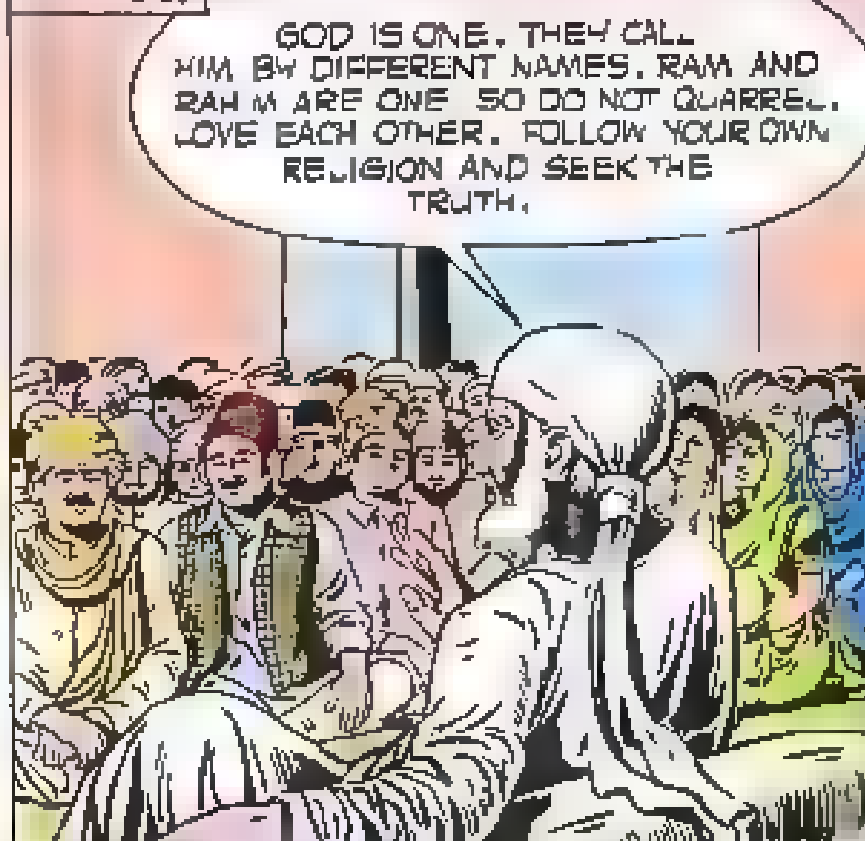
MIR JAMAN, ANOTHER MUSLIM FOLLOWER, ALSO PROTESTED AGAINST THE HINDU MANNER OF WORSHIP. ONE DAY—



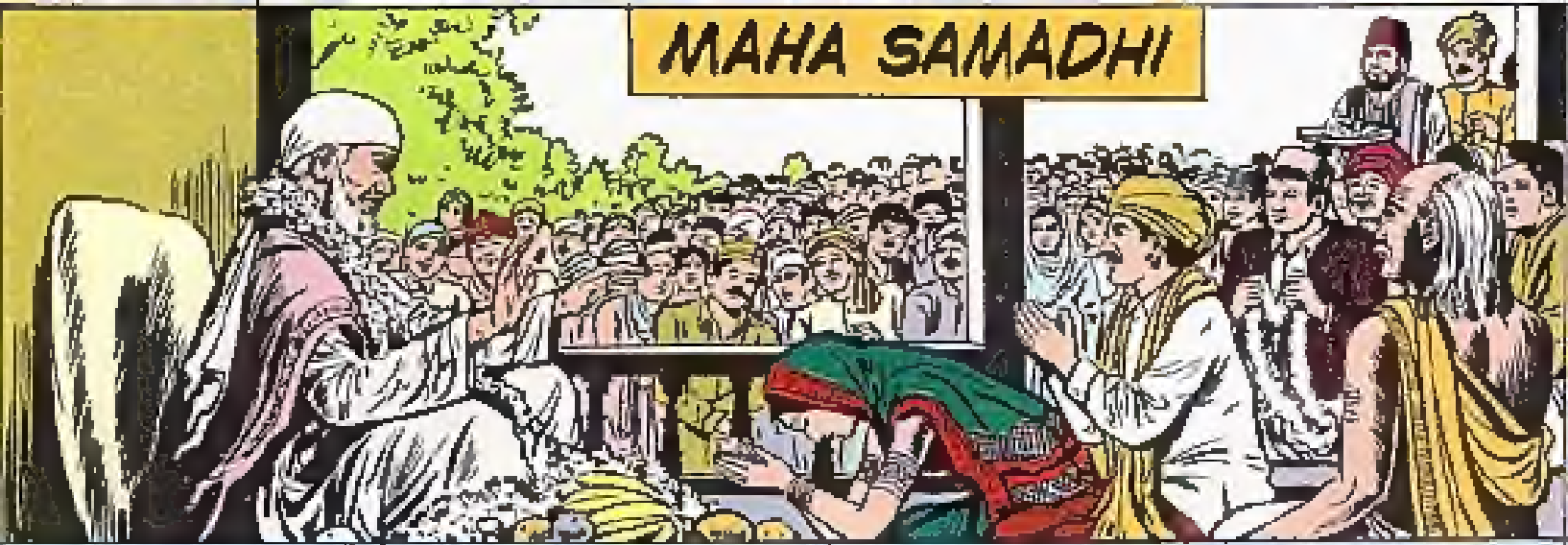
AT THIS, MIR JAMAN QUIETLY PUT HIS SWORD BACK INTO ITS SCABBARD.



THIS DID BABA SUCCEED IN BRINGING JANU BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUS. MS. IN HIS PRESENCE THEY FORGOT THEIR DIFFERENCES OF CASTE AND GREED AND BECAME GOOD FRIENDS.



MAHA SAMADHI



AS THE YEARS WENT BY, SAI BABA'S FAME SPREAD. MORE AND MORE DEVOTEES CAME TO SHIRDI. THE PEOPLE STARTED WORSHIPPING BABA LIKE GOD. HE ACCEPTED IT ALL...

... BUT CONTINUED TO BEG LIKE A POOR FAKIR TO THE END OF HIS LIFE.



ONE DAY, A MILLIONAIRE NAMED BOOTY CAME TO SAI BABA.

BABA, I WISH TO CONSTRUCT A STONE BUILDING WITH A CENTRAL HALL FOR SHRI KRISHNA. HERE IS THE PLAN.

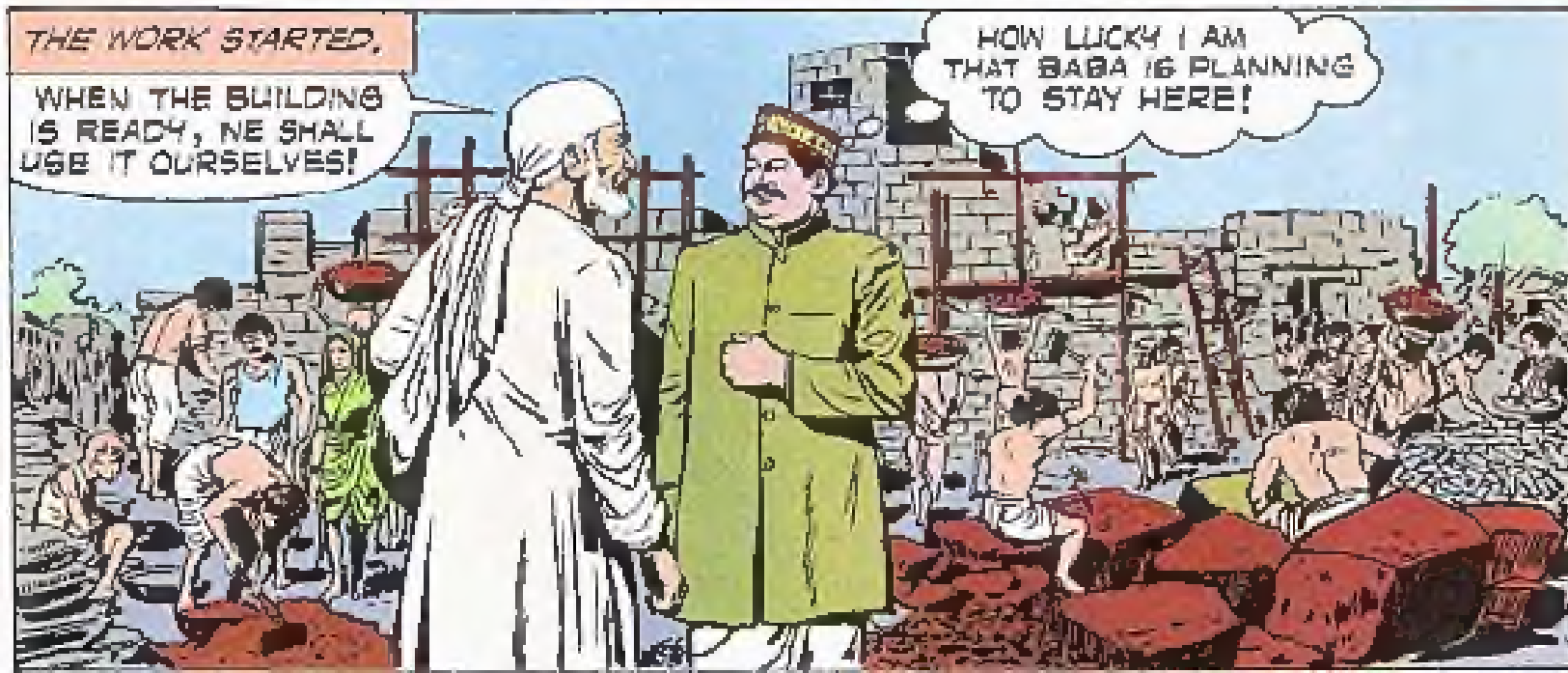
YES, YES, BUILD IT! I WILL GO AND STAY THERE WHEN IT IS READY.



THE WORK STARTED.

WHEN THE BUILDING IS READY, HE SHALL USE IT OURSELVES!

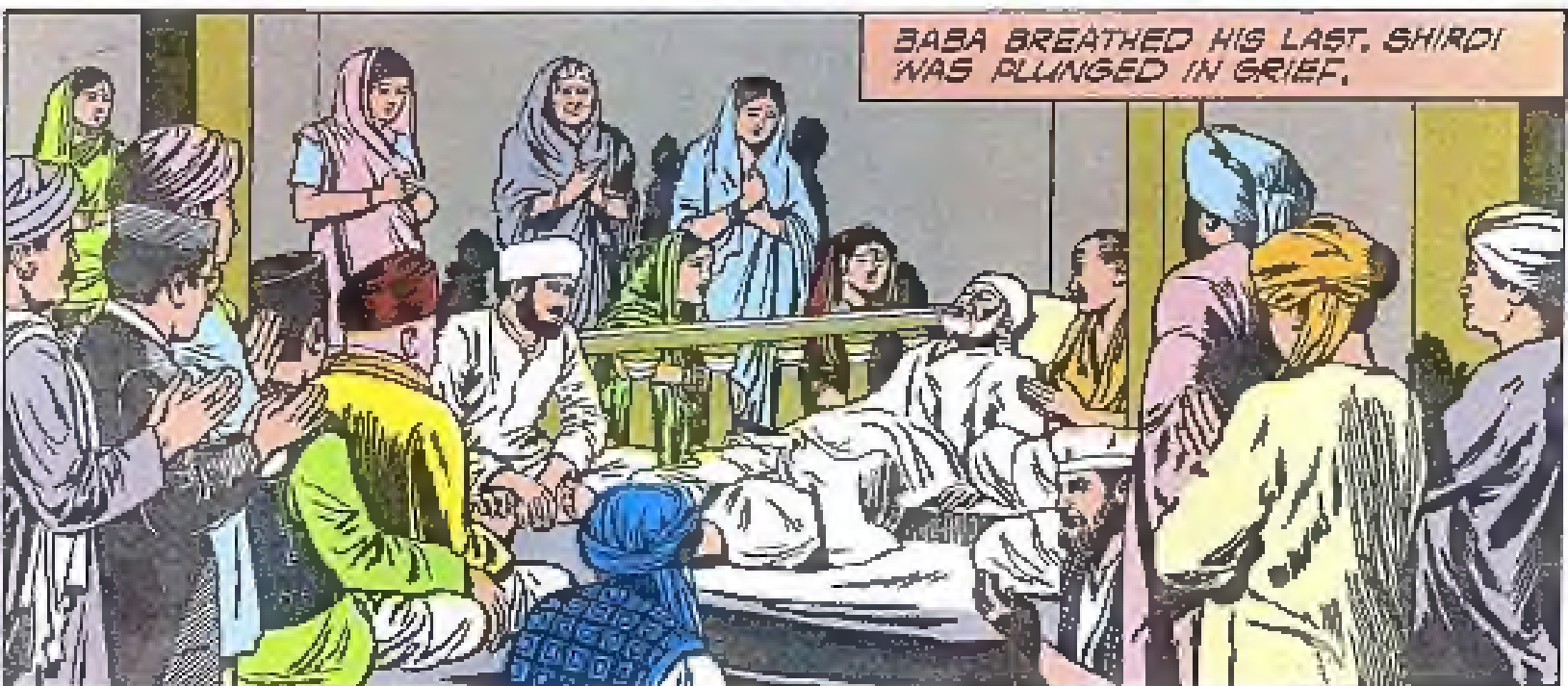
HOW LUCKY I AM THAT BABA IS PLANNING TO STAY HERE!



LITTLE DID BOOTY REALISE WHAT BABA HAD MEANT. BEFORE THE BUILDING WAS COMPLETED, BABA FELL VERY ILL. HE GREW WEAKER AND WEAKER. ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER, 1918, HIS CONDITION BECAME CRITICAL. AT NOON, HE SENT MOST OF HIS DEVOTEES AWAY.



WITH HEAVY HEARTS, THE DEVOTEES LEFT. ONLY A FEW REMAINED. BABA TOOK OUT NINE RUPEE COINS FROM HIS POCKET AND GAVE THEM TO LAXMIBAI, ONE OF THE DEVOTEES.



BOOTH'S STONE BUILDING CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'SAMADHI-MANDIR'. SAI BABA WAS BURIED THERE AND A BEAUTIFUL SHRINE WAS BUILT OVER IT. TO THIS DAY, PEOPLE FLOCK TO SHIRDI TO PAY HOMAGE TO SAI BABA.

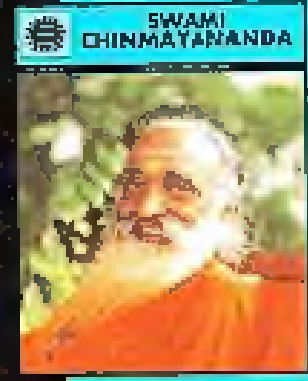
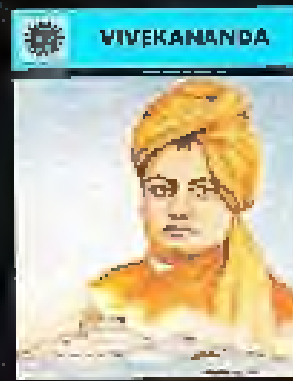
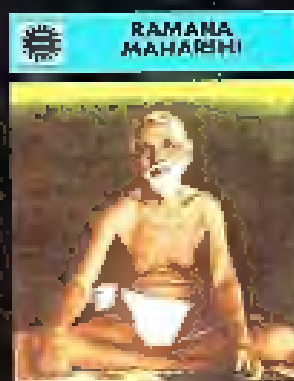
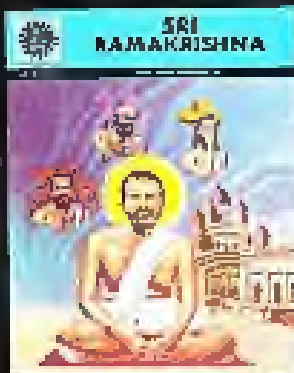
॥ रघुपति सद्यन् राजाराम ॥
॥ पतित पावन साईनाम ॥



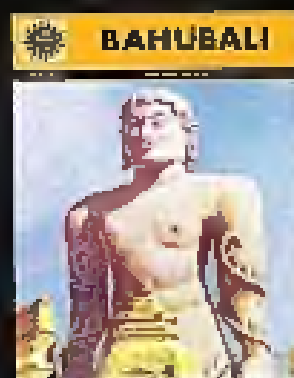
TALES OF SAI BABA

The pious flocked to Shirdi in Maharashtra. Sai Baba's all-encompassing love made them feel better, happier and more at peace. He could reveal himself as the Supreme Deity and yet assume the form of a street dog; he could turn water to oil and save a child far away from burning flames. However, by the time he left this world, in 1918, he had also made thousands understand that good acts are the only miracle needed to find God.

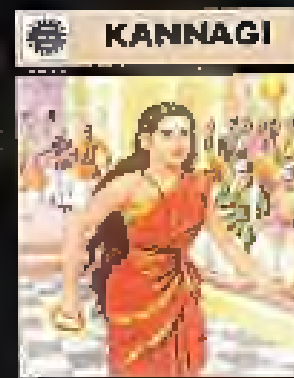
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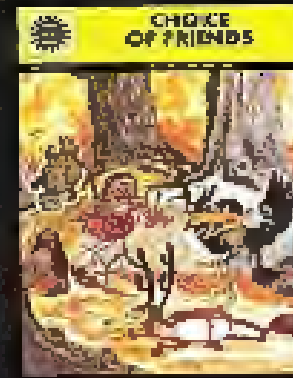
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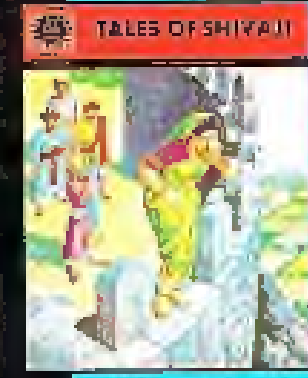
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"Amar Chitra Katha are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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